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ABSTRACT

Over 50 books published in the 1970's and 1980's which deal with various aspects of U.S. history are described. The annotated listing is organized by the following categories: (1) the colonial period, (2) the revolutionary era, (3) 1800-1860, (4) Civil War and reconstruction, (5) the modernization of America, (6) war and peace; and (7) the cold war era. In addition to the brief description, the author, title, publisher, and publication date are provided. (RM)

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RECENT BOOKS IN U.S. HISTORY: AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

by John Scott Wilson

Dr. John Scott Wilson is on the faculty at the University of South Carolina Department of History.

I. THE COLONIAL PERIOD

Paul Boyer and Stephen Nissenbaum, *Salem Possessed: The Social Origins of Witchcraft* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1974).

A study of the notorious witch trials in the context of life in Salem Village. The social data and the recounting of the lives of the Porter and Putnam families help account for the crisis and its impact.

Phillip Greven, *The Protestant Temperament: Patterns of Child Rearing, Religious Experience, and the Self in Early America* (New York: A. A. Knopf, 1977).

An examination of three personality types or temperaments found in America in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Childrearing practices, based apparently on religious convictions, created distinctive temperaments which affected adult behavior: authoritarians created evangelicals, parents balanced between reason and religion reared moderates, and indulgent families produced genteel personality types.

II. THE REVOLUTIONARY ERA

Robert McCluer Calhoon, *The Loyalists in Revolutionary America, 1760-1781* (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1973).

Attempts to explain the Loyalists and their motives in the context of the Revolutionary setting, making the point that explaining loyalty is less of a problem than explaining why men revolt.

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In "NEWS AND NOTES ON THE SOCIAL SCIENCES", April, 1983-84.

Edward Countryman, *A People in Revolution: The American Revolution and Political Society in New York, 1760-1790* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1981).

A complete social history of New York in the Revolutionary period. Concludes that the state experienced a revolutionary change in society as well as politics during the move to national independence. Political society and institutions had been democratized by the end of the era.

Pauline Maier, *From Resistance to Revolution: Colonial Radicals and the Development of American Opposition to Britain, 1765-1776* (New York: A. A. Knopf, 1972).

The author asserts that the Americans followed a radical Whig interpretation of the policies of the British, seeing them as evidence of corruption that led to an unconstitutional assault on their liberties, an assault that could be checked only by independence. Another study that puts much emphasis upon the ideological origins of the revolution.

Mary Beth Norton, *Liberty's Daughters: The Revolutionary Experience of American Women, 1750-1800* (Boston: Little, Brown and Co., 1980).

An examination of the impact of the Revolution and its republican ideology on the constraints of the lives of American women. From a narrow world of wife, mother, and keeper of the home, women moved into a wider world of increased personal choice.

III. 1800-1860

William J. Cooper, Jr., *The South and the Politics of Slavery, 1828-1856* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1978).

A provocative assertion that the issue of slavery was crucial to Southern politics in the Jacksonian period, well in advance of the Mexican War. The protection of slavery was symbolic of the Southern commitment to the ideals of freedom and equality—for whites. Democracy rested on a slave foundation.

David Brion Davis, *The Problem of Slavery in the Age of Revolution, 1770-1823* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1975).

A comparative examination of how questions regarding slavery rose, or failed to rise, in the western world under the simultaneous political and industrial revolutions. The issue of labor, slave or free, turned out to be more significant than revolutionary political freedom.

Ronald P. Formisano, *The Birth of Mass Political Parties: Michigan, 1827-1861* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1971).

A statistical study of the rise of the second party system of the antebellum period. Quantitative analysis indicates that the major factors in party support were the religion and ethnic background of the voters.

Eugene D. Genovese, *Roll, Jordan, Roll: The World the Slaves Made* (New York: Pantheon Books, 1974).

A study of the ambiguities of the slave culture in the United States. A complex analysis and description of the strengths and weaknesses of that culture and its relation to a paternalistic slaveholding class.

James Oakes, *The Ruling Race: A History of American Slaveholders* (New York: A. A. Knopf, 1982).

An examination of southern slaveholders which refutes Genovese's assertion that the antebellum Southern culture was precapitalistic and paternalistic. Oakes focuses on the fact that there were more small slaveholders than planters and that these ambitious farmers were more comfortable with the democratic ideologies of the nineteenth century than the outmoded doctrines of paternalism.

Edward Pessen, *Riches, Class, and Power Before the Civil War* (Lexington, MA: D. C. Heath and Co., 1973).

By using tax assessment records in four northeastern cities, Pessen challenges the long-held assumption that American society was egalitarian. The economic elites were descendants of elites and exercised social and economic hegemony.

David M. Potter, *The Impending Crisis, 1848-1861*, compiled and edited by Don E. Fehrenbacher (New York: Harper and Row, 1976).

A narrative history of the politics preceeding the Civil War.

James Brewer Stewart, *Holy Warriors: The Abolitionists and American Slavery* (New York: Hill and Wang, 1976).

Traces abolitionists, both conservative and immediatists, from their moral roots through the attempts at their repression on to their deepening conviction that slavery did not conform to God's commands, a conviction which permitted them to support those institutions of the 1850s and 1860s which were directed at slavery's end. The author insists that white abolitionists supported civil rights for blacks while demanding that blacks conform to white middle class moral standards.

Anthony F. C. Wallace, *Rockdale: The Growth of an American Village in the Early Industrial Revolution* (New York: A. A. Knopf, 1978).

An anthropological examination of a Pennsylvania cotton manufacturing district between 1825 and 1865. The book recounts the impact of the new industrial system on the lives of the inhabitants and the social forms of the community.

IV. CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION

Michael Les Benedict, *A Compromise of Principles: Congressional Republicans and Reconstruction, 1863-1869* (New York: W. W. Norton, 1974).

An account of the formation of the Republican reconstruction program which concludes that Reconstruction was not radical in fact. Both moderates and conservative Republicans shared the goals of the Radicals, but their political and philosophical inhibitions blocked the enactment of an effective program.

Eric Foner, *Politics and Ideology in the Age of the Civil War* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1980).

Collection of essays examining the significance of ideology in politics as reflected in the Civil War period. Foner asserts that by 1860 the Republican Party, with its emphasis on individual effort, economic freedom and

mobility, had come to represent the modern forces of the North. The Democratic Party represented the traditionalist sections of society, including the paternalistic South. With the Northern victory in the war, the Republican Party found itself aligned with an increasingly resistant free labor Republican Party in the South. Fear of labor demands in the 1870s saw the Republicans abandon the demands of labor, North and South, bringing Reconstruction to an end.

Leon F. Litwak, *Been in the Storm So Long: The Aftermath of Slavery* (New York: A. A. Knopf, 1979).

A prize-winning study of the response of blacks and whites in the South to emancipation. Drawing from slave narratives and white accounts, the complex reaction to a revolutionized society is presented. A major strength of the work is the focus on the variety of these responses.

James M. McPherson, *Ordeal by Fire: The Civil War and Reconstruction* (New York: A. A. Knopf, 1982).

An inclusive synthesis of recent works in the period. The chief theme is that the war and its aftermath were a part of the modernization of America.

Emory M. Thomas, *The Confederate Nation, 1861-1865* (New York: Harper and Row, 1979).

An account of the Confederate experience that asserts that Southern society underwent an internal revolution while engaged in the war with the Union. A Confederate nationalism developed during the war that permitted the growth of a centralized government which directly affected individuals and local autonomy. At the end, even slaves were to be armed for the defense of the new nation.

V. MODERNIZATION OF AMERICA

Alfred D. Chandler, Jr., *Visible Hand: The Managerial Revolution in American Business* (Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press, 1977).

A study of the development of American business from small firms to the few corporate giants that dominate the economy, and the parallel development of a professional managerial group separate from owners who actually guide the growth of these enterprises. Reasons for the victory of the "visible hand" were the growth of demand and the technical ability to control production and resources.

Robert M. Crunden, *Ministers of Reform: The Progressives' Achievement in American Civilization, 1889-1920* (New York: Basic Books, 1982).

Stresses the importance of religion in Progressivism and insists reforms for moral ends were the aims of the actors rather than conscious control of the lower orders. A provocative discussion of cultural changes of the time.

Carl N. Degler, *At Odds: Women and the Family in America from the Revolution to the Present* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1980).

This attempt to merge the two fields of family and women's history is topical and consequently uneven, but useful insights are offered. Primary attention is paid to the nineteenth century. Degler notes the persistent tension between the drive for women to become autonomous and the countervailing demands of the family.

Ann Douglas, *The Feminization of American Culture* (New York: A. A. Knopf, 1977).

Examines the impact of the declining influence of the clergy and the increasing influence of women on American culture in the nineteenth century. The result was rapid, sentimental culture ripe for consumerism.

John M. Faragher, *Women and Men on the Overland Trail* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1979).

Drawing on materials from narratives written while on the trail to the Pacific slope, Farragher detects two worlds of the pioneers—one male and public, the other female and private. He analyzes the differences in those communities and recreates farm life in the middle of the last century.

Lawrence Goodwyn, *Democratic Promise: The Populist Movement in America* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1976).

Locates the political and economic foundations of the movement and its original energy in the Farmers Alliance in Texas. Charles Macune's subtreasury proposal was the foundation of the cooperationist movement which offered a brief alternative to corporate capitalism.

Herbert G. Gutman, *Work, Culture, and Society in Industrializing America: Essays in American Working-Class and Social History* (New York: A. A. Knopf, 1976).

A series of essays which attempt to relate the ideas of a developing American working class to their changing culture of work and how industrial capitalism transformed the social structure, popular beliefs, and class relation. Focus is on the nineteenth century.

_____. *The Black Family in Slavery and Freedom, 1750-1925* (New York: Pantheon Books, 1976).

A major examination of the black family which concludes that slaves maintained strong family ties in spite of opposing forces of the system, and that the family structure offered protection against the debilitating tendency of slavery.

T. J. Jackson Lears, *No Place of Grace: Anti-Modernism and the Transformation of American Culture, 1880-1920* (New York: Pantheon Books, 1981).

An examination of the rejection by urban elites of the increasingly sterile culture of the United States at the turn of the century. Seeking meaning for their lives, they turned from their bourgeoise culture to what they perceived as more vital experiences in the past or exotic experiences. Lears asserts that in actuality this search for sensation and authenticity solidified their class position and helped ease the transition of the society into modernism.

Samuel T. McSeveney, *The Politics of Depression: Political Behavior in the Northeast, 1893-1896* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1972).

A statistical study of voting patterns that indicates the power of ethnic and cultural forces in politics. McSeveney suggests that the crucial election of 1896 was

foreordained two years earlier and determined by the impact of the great depression of the nineties.

Stephan Thernstrom, *The Other Bostonians: Poverty and Progress in the American Metropolis, 1880-1970* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1973).

A major study of mobility utilizing analysis of demographic information. Boston did provide extensive opportunities for occupational mobility, but dominant groups, whites, native born, and Protestants were most likely to use those chances offered to them.

Alan Trachtenberg, *The Incorporation of America: Culture and Society in the Gilded Age* (New York: Hill and Wang, 1982).

A brief interpretation of the American experience in the last part of the nineteenth century which uses the corporation as fact and metaphor in that period's debate over what America meant and who would define it. The Chicago World's Fair of 1893 serves as the apex of this debate.

VI. WAR: PEACE: WAR AGAIN

David Burner, *Herbert Hoover: A Public Life* (New York: A. A. Knopf, 1979).

A product of the recently opened Hoover files which shows the continuities between Hoover's childhood, private, and public careers. Bruner concludes that Hoover was successful both as Secretary of Commerce and president until overwhelmed by the depression.

Paul A. Carter, *Another Part of the Twenties* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1977).

A useful corrective to the idea of the roaring twenties, emphasizing that most Americans were outside the main currents of the jazz age. He includes useful references to popular culture.

Norman H. Clark, *Deliver Us From Evil: An Interpretation of American Prohibition* (New York: W. W. Norton, 1976).

An interpretation of the prohibition which insists that the movement was a response to a real problem—public drunkenness.

Robert Dallek, *Franklin D. Roosevelt and American Foreign Policy, 1932-1945* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1979).

A study of F.D.R.'s policy which indicates that the themes of his war-time politics could be seen in his pre-war views and actions. Seeing international relations in terms of power politics, he attempted to guide the nation through the intensifying aggression of the thirties and prepare for tensions with the Soviets after the conflict.

David M. Kennedy, *Over Here: The First World War and American Society* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1980).

Kennedy reviews the American domestic responses to the Great War and how those reactions altered the society, the mobilization of thought, the economy, and politics and created important differences in the nation that ended the war from the one which began it.

Arthur S. Link, *Woodrow Wilson, Revolution, War, and Peace* (Arlington Heights, IL: A.H.M. Corporation, 1979).

Wilson's biographer presents a series of essays summarizing his views on Wilson's thought and actions.

Richard Polenberg, *War and Society: The United States, 1941-1945* (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott, 1972).

A study of the impact of the war on the homefront. Polenberg concludes that the war redefined the relationship of the government to individuals and people to each other. Particular attention is paid to the relations between government and industry and the collapse of New Deal liberalism.

Robert Sklar, *Movie-Made America: A Social History of American Movies* (New York: Random House, 1975).

An important study in popular culture tracing the growth of the movie industry and the interaction of its products and the larger society. This interchange affected both the culture and the industry and helped to create the twentieth century world.

VII. COLD WAR ERA

Clayborne Carson, *In Struggle: S.N.C.C. and the Black Awakening of the 1960s* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1981).

A study of the brief life of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee as its members turned from religiously motivated demands for reform to secular factionalism, revolution and racial separation.

John Lewis Gaddis, *The United States and the Origins of the Cold War, 1941-1947* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1972).

An examination of the central issue of American foreign policy after World War II. He reassesses American-Soviet relations in light of the revisionist studies of the sixties.

George C. Herring, *America's Longest War: The United States and Vietnam, 1950-1975* (New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1979).

A brief summary of U.S. involvement and detachment from the war in Southeast Asia.

Walter Lafeber, *America, Russia, and the Cold War, 1945-1980*, 4th edition (New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1980).

A frequently updated survey of U.S.-Soviet relations in the period after World War II. Some attention is given to peripheral aspects of the affairs of the two states.

William L. O'Neill, *Coming Apart: An Informal History of the 1960s* (Chicago: Quadrangle Books, 1971).

A cynical overview written immediately after the decade that has held up in a surprising fashion. Most of the important issues are presented, although there is no reflection of recent scholarship, of course.

Thomas C. Reeves, *The Life and Times of Joe McCarthy: A Biography* (New York: Stein and Day, 1982).

An examination of the Communist hunter from Wisconsin that confirms most standard impressions of his

career. The book does try to place McCarthy into the paranoia of his times. Reeves points to the senator's early conversion to anti-communism, well before 1950, and insists that his actions were sincere in their intentions, if disasterous in their results.

Martin J. Sherwin, *A World Destroyed: The Atomic Bomb and the Grand Alliance* (New York: A. A. Knopf, 1975).

Discusses the British-American development of the bomb as a wartime measure. The book assesses the unwillingness of F.D.R. to share the atomic secret with the Soviet Union, in spite of the assertions of the leading scientists involved that secrecy would likely authorize using the bomb as a logical conclusion of Roosevelt's policies.

Harvard Sitkoff, *The Struggle for Black Equality, 1954-1980* (New York: Hill and Wang, 1981).

A solid, brief overview of the rise and fall of the civil rights movement. The collapse of the movement is attributed to white racism as the struggle for equality moved north at the end of the sixties and involved class issues.

Russell F. Weigley, *The American Way of War: A History of United States Military Strategy and Policy* (New York: Macmillan, 1973).

An examination which indicates the reasons for U.S. reliance on a strategy of annihilation rather than attrition. Focuses on the twentieth century.

Allen Weinstein, *Perjury: The Hiss-Chambers Case* (New York: A. A. Knopf, 1978).

An investigation of the celebrated case, based on documents on the files of the F.B.I. He concludes that the charges that Hiss was a communist and did commit espionage were correct. The book does not deal with the implications of the case.

Daniel Yergin, *Shattered Peace: The Origins of the Cold War and the National Security State* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1977).

A study of the U.S. response to the Soviet Union after World War II, in which the assumptions of State Department officials who developed a wary view toward Soviet policies replaced those who encouraged accommodation. Increasingly the U.S.S.R. was perceived as a world revolutionary state that needed to be contained, rather than an imperialistic state with which agreement could be reached by working out secure spheres of influence.

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The Coordinator for School Social Studies visits schools and provides consultative assistance in curriculum assessment, instructional strategies, and student evaluation and makes presentations on pre-college social studies education, educational supervision, and specific topics in history and the social sciences. The Coordinator's office also sponsors pre-college student programs in Indiana, such as History Day, the Lincoln Era Essay Contest, and High School Honors Seminars. Indiana Council for the Social Studies, the largest professional organization of social studies educators in Indiana, is headquartered with the Coordinator's office. The office also maintains the Social Studies Curriculum Resource Center, one of the largest permanent displays of K-12 social studies texts, teacher's guides, games and audio-visual classroom materials in the country. The Master of Arts for Teachers in Social Studies (MAT/Social Studies), a flexible 36-hr. degree program which falls somewhere between an M.S. in Education and an M.A. in one of the social sciences, is administered through the Coordinator's office. For more information about any of these services or programs, or a list of free materials available from the Coordinator's office, write to: C. Frederick Risinger, Coordinator for School Social Studies, Office of School Programs, Indiana University, 2805 E. 10th St., Room 110, Bloomington, IN 47405.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

POLISH AMERICAN HERITAGE WORKSHOP

Teachers interested in a deeper appreciation of Polish and Polish American culture may attend this workshop June 25-July 13, 1984, to be held at Michigan's Orchard Lake Schools. Undergraduate credit in language and Polish studies is included in the $550 tuition and housing fee. Participants will also benefit from a variety of regularly-scheduled Polish oriented mini-workshops, lectures, symposia and films available on the campus. Send for a registration form and return it with full payment (or a $10 non-refundable deposit) by June 15, 1984 to: Dr. Frank Renkiewicz, Center for Polish Studies and Culture, Box 5051, Orchard Lake, MI 48033 (after deadline, please call 313-682-1885).

SUMMER U.S.S.R. STUDY TOUR

A social studies education tour to many cities in the Soviet Union will be conducted June 18-July 13, 1984, with a focus on Soviet education and culture. The cost is approximately $2,850 round-trip from Columbus, Ohio. Graduate credit (9-12 qtr. hrs.) is also available. For more information and an application form, contact: M. Eugene Gilliom, Prof. of Social Studies Education, 227-C Arps Hall, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH 43210, telephone (614) 422-5381.

SUMMER INSTITUTE ON THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION

Secondary school teachers of American history and government are eligible to apply for an NEH-funded institute, "Origin and Development of American Constitutionalism," to be held July 9-Aug. 3, 1984. Participants are provided a $100/week stipend, room and board, travel allowance and materials. Five semester hours of graduate credit are provided; participants must secure an in-kind contribution from their school district toward dissemination of workshop materials. For an application, write